

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, none of the claims now pending in the application are unpatentable or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 103. Claims 1 and 16 were amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification on at least paragraph [22]. In addition, various claims were amended to address informalities. No new matter was added. Thus, all of the claims are now in allowable form.

The Assignee's representative thanks the Examiner for taking time to speak with the Assignee's representative, Chin Kim Registration, No. 54,220, on September 14, 2010. In accordance with the discussion with the Examiner, claims 1 and 16 are amended, as noted above, to overcome the present rejection. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Assignee's representative upon receiving this response if further discussion would help clarify any outstanding issues.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7-19, 23-32 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-19 and 23-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. The rejection is traversed.

As previously noted, paragraphs [16] and [18] clearly indicate that an identification of an existing conversation is received at the VCS after the first VoIP station establish communication with the VCS. That is, the first VoIP phone must initially connect to the VCS such that the first VoIP phone can identify an existing conversation that it would like to select to join.

For example, in paragraph [18], the specification describes that the first VoIP phone can provide the VCS an identification of an existing conversation after a "join-call" signal is received by the VCS. In other words, the VCS and the first VoIP phone are already in communication when the first VoIP phone provides the identification of the existing conversation they wish to join.

Therefore, claims 1-4, 7-19 and 23-32 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7-19 AND 23-31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 16-19, and 23-27

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-11, 16-19, and 23-27 as being unpatentable over Summers, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,961,416, issued on November 1, 2005, hereinafter referred to as "Summers") in view of Rodman, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0103864, published on August 1, 2002, hereinafter referred to as "Rodman") and in further view of Aravamudan, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,076, issued on June 24, 2003, hereinafter referred to as "Aravamudan"). It should be noted that the Examiner included claims 20-22 in the rejection. However, claims 20-22 were previously canceled without prejudice. The remaining rejection is traversed.

Summers discloses an internet-enabled conferencing system and method accommodating PSTN and IP traffic. A caller may call into a conference call by dialing a number connecting them to a Voice node or VoIP node within a chassis on a TDM bus. (See Summers, col. 11, ll. 26-65).

Rodman discloses a system and method for coordinating a conference using a dedicated server. The system and method initiates a data conference between a plurality of conference endpoints linked in communication by a private or public computer network. (See Rodman, Abstract).

Aravamudan discloses a telecommunications conferencing method and apparatus. The method and apparatus use a plurality of device servers including a packet circuit gateway. In response to a request for a conference call, the packet network determines the parties to be on the conference call and selects a conference bridge that results in the lowest cost for the conference call. (See Aravamudan, Abstract).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to describe or suggest a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server

between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station, as positively claimed by independent claims 1 and 16, respectively.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 16 recite:

1. A method for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call by joining a first voice over internet protocol station in a communication between a plurality of communication stations, wherein one of the plurality of communication stations is a second voice over internet protocol station in a private network and the first voice over internet protocol station is in the private network, the method comprising:
receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station, wherein the plurality of existing conversations comprises voice over internet protocol calls and each one of the plurality of existing conversations is on a different connection;
setting up a connection between the voice conference server and the first voice over internet protocol station;
receiving an identification of the one of the plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server via a code number entered by the first voice over internet protocol station corresponding to the second voice over internet protocol station after the connection between the voice conference server and the first voice over internet protocol station is set up, wherein the one of the plurality of existing conversations is between the second voice over internet protocol station in the private network and a phone in a public network, wherein the voice conference server is external to the first voice over internet protocol station and the plurality of communication stations;
establishing a real-time transport protocol voice path with the first voice over internet protocol station and the voice conference server; and
managing data packet transmission between the first voice over internet protocol station and one of the plurality of communication stations via the voice conference server. (Emphasis added).

16. A device for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call by joining a first voice over internet protocol station in a communication between a plurality of communication stations, wherein one of the plurality of communication stations is a second voice over internet protocol station in a private network and the first voice over internet protocol station is in the private network, the device comprising:

a receiver in a voice conference server for receiving an indication from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server after setting up a connection between the voice conference server and the first voice over internet protocol station, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station, wherein each one of the plurality of existing conversations is on a different connection, wherein the indication comprises a code number entered by the first voice over internet protocol station corresponding to the second voice over internet protocol station identifying the one of the plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server, wherein the one of the plurality of existing conversations is between the second voice over internet protocol station in the private network and a phone in a public network, wherein the voice conference server is external to the first voice over internet protocol station and the plurality of communication stations;

an apparatus in the voice conference server for setting up a real-time transport protocol voice path with the first voice over internet protocol station in response to the received signal for joining the call; and,

an real-time transport protocol mixer in the voice conference server for managing at least two voice over internet protocol stations and sending the mixed data packets to at least one voice over internet protocol station. (Emphasis added).

In one embodiment of the present disclosure, a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. As a result, conferencing capability in private VoIP networks are provided while containing costs for the VoIP phones because of the VCS. (See e.g., Specification, p. 6, para. [15]). Moreover, the VCS may provide conferencing capabilities without the need to pre-establish a conference call. (See *Id.* para. [16]).

The alleged combination (as taught by Summers) fails to render obvious the independent claims because the alleged combination fails to describe or suggest a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server

from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. The claims were amended to specify that the VCS is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. In other words, no traditional conference call servers and hardware is required, thereby saving costs in the system.

In stark contrast, all of the references cited by the Examiner only describe traditional methods of conference calling. That is, each reference requires a conference bridge to be pre-established and the code provided allows the invited participants to connect to the conference server. Notably, once the invited participant has connected to the conference server, the invited participant is unable to then select a conversation. This significant difference is clear upon examination of the amended claim language recited in independent claims 1 and 16.

Summers clearly discloses that a conference is scheduled and that once the scheduled start time arrives that callers join the conference using a dial in or dial out procedure. (See Summers, col. 11, ll. 26-31). For example, the caller dials a conference telephone number to connect to a conference call server. (See *Id.* at ll. 36-40, emphasis added).

In addition, Rodman fails to bridge the substantial gap left by Summers because Rodman also fails to describe or suggest a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. Rodman discloses that the initial audio conference is established by dialing a telephone

number and entering a code assigned to the conference bridge hosted by a conference call server. (See Rodman, para. [0038]).

Finally, Aravamudan also fails to bridge the substantial gap left by Summers and Rodman because Aravamudan also fails to describe or suggest a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. Aravamudan only discloses dynamically changing conference bridges. (See Aravamudan, Abstract). Therefore, Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to render obvious independent claims 1 and 16.

Moreover, dependent claims 2-4, 7-11, 17-19, and 23-27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 16, respectively, and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, claims 2-4, 7-11, 17-19, and 23-27 are also patentable over Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 12-15 and 28-31

The Examiner rejected claims 12-15 and 28-31 as being unpatentable over Summers in view of Rodman and Aravamudan and in further view of Canon, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,159, issued on July 31, 2001, hereinafter referred to as "Cannon"). The rejection is traversed.

The disclosures of Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan are discussed above. Cannon discloses conferencing with a calling party. The method and apparatus provides three way conferencing which allows a third party caller to call into an existing telephone call at a single line of a called party's telephone. (See Cannon, Abstract.)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the alleged

combination (as taught by Summers, Rodman, Aravamudan, and Cannon) fails to disclose the novel a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station, as positively claimed by independent claims 1 and 16. (See *supra*). As discussed above, the combination of Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan simply does not describe or suggest the novel method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station.

Moreover, Cannon does not bridge the substantial gap left by Summers, Rodman and Aravamudan because Cannon also fails to describe or suggest a method or apparatus for establishing a voice over internet protocol conference call comprising receiving an indication at a voice conference server from the first voice over internet protocol station in the private network for joining one of a plurality of existing conversations on the voice conference server between the plurality of communication stations, wherein the voice conference server is located at an access point serving the first voice over internet protocol station. Thus, for all of the above reasons, the combination of Summers, Rodman, Aravamudan and Cannon fails to render obvious independent claims 1 and 16.

Furthermore, dependent claims 12-15 and 28-31 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, claims 12-15 and 28-31 are also patentable and not made obvious by the teachings of Summers, Rodman, Aravamudan and Cannon. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Thus, all of the claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 103. Consequently, all the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 542-2280 x130 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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